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Agenda items 34, 39, 67, 69 and 83

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Promotion and protection of human rights

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Letter dated 30 August 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in connection with the letter dated 12 August 2013 (A/67/952-S/2013/478) regarding the practice of circulating propaganda letters by the Azerbaijani side (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 39, 67, 69 and 83, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Garen **Nazarian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 30 August 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

Azerbaijan, whose attempts to abort the negotiation process for the peaceful settlement of the conflict between Azerbaijan and the Nagorno Karabakh Republic are becoming more evident, has resorted to new propaganda tricks.

The letter dated 19 July 2013, from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan to the Secretary-General (A/67/952-S/2013/478, annex), is a vivid manifestation of such a policy of Azerbaijan.

This time Azerbaijan is trying to utilize for its political goals the Syrian crisis, which is currently under the focus of the international community, in particular the fate of the Syrian Armenians who, along with other Syrian refugees, are forced to find refuge in different parts of the world.

Overwhelmed by its mania of distorting the essence of the conflict and misleading the international community, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan did not hesitate to use obvious lies and misinformation. It should be noted in particular that no single person mentioned in the so-called "resettled people" list conveyed along with the letter to the United Nations Secretariat has ever been, and is not currently on, the territory of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

Azerbaijan once again distorts and selectively interprets facts concerning the activities of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, claiming that two field assessment missions of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs dispatched to Nagorno Karabakh have allegedly recorded "numerous violations of the norms and principles of international humanitarian law".

It is well known that those missions, which were carried out with the consent and support of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic authorities, in their reports refuted the Azeri allegations about the implementation of resettlement programmes. Meanwhile, it is appropriate to recall that Azerbaijan refused and still does not allow access for an OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs field assessment mission to the occupied territories of Nagorno Karabakh, where, in an organized manner, large-scale projects for the settlement of Azeris are being implemented in previously Armenian-populated areas.

It is a matter of special concern that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of a country with the status of non-permanent member of the Security Council uses direct threats in his letter.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic calls on the United Nations Member States to take measures preventing the attempts of Azerbaijan to use the high tribune of the United Nations for propaganda machinations, and to support the mediation efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs in finding a comprehensive and lasting solution to the conflict between the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan.

Stepanakert, 30 August 2013